

Seabrook and all of New Hampshire when he won a bronze medal in the men's halfpipe competition. We are all very proud of Andrew Weibrecht, who won bronze in the Super-G, and Hillary Knight, who took silver with her team.

Of course, the State is still celebrating Bode Miller, who, by winning a gold, silver, and bronze medal on the Whistler slopes, became the most decorated American alpine skier in history.

But I am proud of every Granite Stater who represented our country in these Games. As someone in elected office, I can tell you that not every race goes exactly how you would like. What is important is that each of you has achieved so much through focus and hard work, far away from the spotlight. You represent the best of our State.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize Tyler Walker of Franconia and Chris Devlin-Young of Campton, who will be skiing for Team USA later this week at the Vancouver Paralympic games. The Paralympic games continue to shine as an example to the world of what each of us can achieve. Thank you for representing our State and our country. Good luck.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the University of New Mexico men's basketball team for achieving a second straight Mountain West Conference title.

The team's accomplishments include a school record 28 wins, including 10 road wins this season. In addition, their remarkable achievements include 14 consecutive victories and top 10 rankings in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls.

Renowned for passionate fans, the University of New Mexico men's basketball team dedication to character and teamwork has brought tremendous pride to the people of New Mexico and offers our country a reflection of this spirit.

I also wish to commend the leadership of senior cocaptain Roman Martinez for his excellence in the classroom and his contributions to the community. As an Academic All-American, Roman exemplifies the true character of a student-athlete. Knowing Roman's dedication to service in the community, it is clear that his role in this most worthy pursuit will be even greater in the years to come.

Along with my fellow New Mexicans, I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete in the Mountain West Conference and NCAA tournaments, and I applaud their achievements.●

##### DR. MIKE LOOPER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Dr. Mike Looper of

Greenwood for being named the Agriculture Research Service National Scientist of the Year for 2009. Dr. Looper, an animal scientist at the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center, is the first Arkansan to receive the Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist Award, which goes to the top scientist who has worked for less than 7 years.

I commend Dr. Looper for his research on how improved livestock management can have a positive economic impact on our rural farmers. Through his research efforts, Dr. Looper represents the best of our Arkansas values: hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He also inspires the next generation of Arkansas leaders as an adjunct instructor of biology and physiology at the University of Arkansas.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our Arkansas agriculture community. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

I salute Dr. Looper and the entire Arkansans agriculture community for their hard work and dedication.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS RED CROSS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today, during Red Cross Month, I salute the efforts of the Arkansas Red Cross. The men and women who work in support of our local Red Cross chapters are part of a global network that mobilizes during the most devastating of times. They provide comfort and care for those who need it most, whether that need is clothing, shelter, or blood.

The Arkansas Red Cross exemplifies our Arkansas values of humanity, compassion, and a spirit of giving. Many times throughout the years, I have seen the good work of our Arkansas Red Cross first hand. The sacrifice and commitment they make is to be acknowledged and celebrated. On behalf of the people of our State, I thank everyone in the Arkansas Red Cross family, from volunteers to staff members to donors of blood or financial resources.

Since 1943, the President of the United States has proclaimed March as "Red Cross Month." President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to "rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross."

Mr. President, communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of the public to achieve its mission.●

##### TRIBUTE TO KEVIN WATTS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Kevin Watts of McGehee, AR, for being named Ginner of the Year by the Southern Cotton Ginners Association. Kevin is an excellent example of Arkansas's agriculture tradition. After working with his father in a cotton gin, Kevin knew by the time he graduated from high school what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Our farm families are critical to our Nation's economic stability. Agriculture is one of the leading U.S. industries in exports, with a trade surplus of \$23 billion in fiscal year 2009. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability.

I salute Kevin and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.●

##### REMEMBERING DIANA TILLION

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Diana Tillion, of Halibut Cove, AK. I am saddened to report that Diana, a true Alaskan spirit and invaluable public servant, passed away at home, with her family surrounding her, on February 3, 2010, at the age of 81. Diana is remembered by those who knew her as a beloved wife and mother, public servant, teacher, writer, poet, and friend. She is treasured by the people back home as an incredible artist who depicted Alaska's beauty in a unique way. Diana had the ability to create a window through her art—a window into the impressive and untamed landscape of our great State. Any one of her pieces could draw you into that scene and that moment in a meaningful and memorable way.

Alaska is a vast open land full of breathtaking scenery, wild animals, and diverse terrain. It is also a place that is rich in culture. From Alaska's native peoples and the traditions passed down by their ancestors, to the pioneers of the gold rush, to Alaskans who are breaking new ground today—it is not a place for the faint of heart. Alaskans take pride in this, and Diana Tillion undoubtedly understood this sense of pride and shared in it with us.

Diana was born in Paradise, CA on June 1, 1928. She migrated north to the